



Chechnya's Special Forces University to Offer Mountain Tourism

OE Watch Commentary: Twenty years ago, devastated by a brutal war and subsequent lawlessness, the region of Chechnya was largely considered a violent wasteland. Over the subsequent two decades, Russian authorities implemented a successful counter-insurgency strategy, which (though costly in terms of resources and political control) has brought stability and a measure of prosperity to this once war-torn region. To illustrate just how far Chechnya has progressed, the brief accompanying excerpt from the official Russian news source TASS, announced that a new “Russian Special Forces University in Gudermes plans to host the first tourists in August 2018.”

As reported in a previous *OE Watch* entry (“New Special Forces Training Center in Chechnya,” May 2017) the official mandate of this new training center is not altogether clear. While initially described as providing special forces training to those wearing Russian uniforms, the latest report suggests that individual, private “tourists” will also be able to enroll. As described in the excerpt, a portion of the Russian Special Forces University will be used as an incubator for tourism, charged with developing “mountain tourism in the region.”

Besides attracting visitors for mountain adventures, the new Special Forces University offers an impressive array of training programs for military personnel: “weapons training and practical shooting, tactical special training, airborne and flight training, diving training and diving, security and bodyguard training, mountain training and mountaineering, tactical medicine and first aid, training of military journalists, official dog breeding, information and technical training and physical training.” Alongside their promotional photos, the university’s website (see: <https://ruspetsnaz.ru/about/>) includes basic information and planned future activities. Chechnya has indeed come a long way over the past two decades. From a lawless and heavily damaged region, the opening of this unique university suggests that Chechnya could soon become a destination for both tourists and military professionals. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

“The Russian Special Forces University in Gudermes plans to host the first tourists in August 2018...”



Logo for the Russian Special Forces University in Chechnya.

Source: <https://ruspetsnaz.ru>. CCA BY 3.0.

Source: “Российский университет спецназа в Чечне примет первых туристов в августе 2018 года (Russian Special Forces University in Chechnya will host the first tourists in August 2018),” TASS, 25 May 2018. <http://tass.ru/pmef-2018/articles/5235399>

The Russian Special Forces University in Gudermes plans to host the first tourists in August 2018 - after the initial stage of the construction of the center was completed, the chairman of the government’s tourism committee, Muslim Baytaziev, told TASS...

“Part of the infrastructure of the Russian Special Forces University will be put into operation in August of this year, thus it will be marked that the center is ready to receive tourists. In addition to a wide range of services on the basis of the center, the university develops the directions for the development of mountain tourism in the region, they conducted expeditions to study mountain peaks and trails for building tourist routes...” Baytaziev said, adding that the full launch of the facility is planned for 2019.

The Russian Special Forces University (RUS) is built on the territory of more than 450 hectares in the city of Gudermes and is a multifunctional complex of 95 buildings and structures equipped with the latest specialized information and technical solutions. RUS will cover such areas as fire training and practical shooting, tactical special training, airborne and flight training, diving training and diving, security and bodyguard training, mountain training and mountaineering, tactical medicine and first aid, training of military journalists, automatic training, official dog breeding, information and technical training and physical training. Almost all these areas of the center will be accessible to tourists and residents of Chechnya....

Reconnaissance-in-Force Russian Style

By Lester W. Grau

“Integrated fires, rapid detect-destroy systems and the controlled, merciless onslaught of smaller robot tanks and assault vehicles may rip through robust defenses to determine the true nature of the defense and prepare the main attack to totally dismantle it. To the Russian way of thinking, the reconnaissance-in-force remains a viable method of tactical intelligence. Learning how to employ it optimally is the current challenge.”

This paper was originally published in *Armor* journal’s Winter-Spring 2018 edition.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-monographs/230764>

